

Our 112th year of serving the Carbondale area -- home of Nan Battle

# Carbondale News

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## Council extends '83 budget to meet payroll, estimates debt at \$418,000

By MIKE PETROVSKY

Carbondale City Council unanimously approved an emergency resolution to extend the city's 1983 budget at a reorganizational meeting held Monday night, January 9.

The resolution freezes all city expenditures with the exception of salaries for city employees until the 1984 budget is passed. The council letter to the city employees received from Mayor Charlotte Moro on January 5, which stated their salary would be held until after the emergency resolution was passed.

Moro's letter also stated the resolution will extend the 1983 budget for 30 days.

The reason for the emergency resolution is to give the city time to prepare the 1984 budget which would most likely have to include a tax increase for Carbondale residents. Finance director John Kearney revealed at Monday's meeting that, according to his most recent figures, which don't include money the city owes to the firemen's and police pension funds, to unemployment compensation and in state taxes, the city is in debt \$418,253.78. The mayor, who was also in attendance at Monday's meeting, added the debt

will go over the half-million dollar mark once a final tally is made.

However, both the mayor and members of council assured residents at the meeting that the city would not attempt to pay off the huge debt in one year. The mayor also said the city would hire a collection agency to recover an estimated 30 percent of last year's taxes still owed to the city by delinquent taxpayers.

In another action relating to the 1983 budget, the council unanimously voted to award the firm of Parente, Handoff, Carey, Orlando and Associates the contract to audit the city's finances. City solicitor John Cerro told the council that after

examining all the firms who submitted bids for the audit he recommends Parente because of the quality of past audits they have done for the city and because their bid of \$10,500 -- which was \$4,000 more than the next highest bidder -- would not increase once the audit was completed, and no other firm offered the same guarantee.

In other business the council: Voted 6-1 to reinstate councilman Michael Tolero as council president and voted unanimously to appoint councilman Albert Calabrese as vice president. Councilman Frank Grecco Jr. voted against Tolero's reinstatement.

Was read a resolution introduced by councilman Grecco to amend the city Administrative Code to allow the mayor to appoint an attorney to

assist the Zoning Hearing Board. The city would pay the attorney an hourly rate for his services.

In a request made by councilman Calabrese, asked for input from citizens and business on either raising the fine for parking violations due to expired parking meters from \$1 to \$5, or doing away with the meters and allowing one or two hours free parking with violators being fined anywhere from \$5 to \$10. The latter figure corresponds to fines for parking violations in Scranton. Calabrese said that the city now spends more money repairing the meters than it receives from them.

Heard from S. Robert Powell of the Carbondale Historical Society who announced that his organization will help lessen the city's financial troubles by making some renovations

to both the exterior and the interior of the city hall. The money for the project came in the form of an \$8,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. Powell received a round of applause from the council, the mayor and those in attendance after making his announcement.

Heard from Ruth Marmelstein, 54 North Church Street, who asked the city to enforce the ordinance requiring homeowners and businesses in Carbondale to remove the ice from their sidewalks. The ordinance states that homeowners and businesses have 24 hours to clear their sidewalks.

## C'dale Twp. police chief loses job

By MIKE PETROVSKY

The people of Carbondale Township are currently without police protection according to former police Chief John Symones. However, according to township supervisor chairman, Joseph Wahy, township residents may call him to find out what is being done about police protection in the township.

The Township Board of Supervision at their reorganizational meeting, Tuesday, January 3, replaced Symones, an experienced full time police chief with three part time policemen, who will have no law enforcement authority until they complete a mandatory police training course. Chairman Wahy told the NEWS he feels that the three part time officers -- Frank Lee, Paul Pfe and Frank Lapka -- and a fourth part

time officer to be hired in the future would better serve the township by representing all four communities: Childs, Mayfield, Jermyn and Whites Crossing. Wahy also said that Symones did not enforce the township's trash dumping laws.

Symones, who has completed a police training program, has been trained to use the VASCAR speed detection unit and had served on the

Clarks Green police department before he became a police officer for the township in 1980, said the part time police officer system would set the township back. The former police chief said he was on call 24 hours a day and that being a policeman was his full time job. He said that two of the part time officers would be hired to work full time at other jobs during the day and the other appointed to retired and has a heart condition.

Contrary to what Wahy said Symones stated he did make some arrests for illegal trash dumping but he added that it was difficult to cover all four areas of the township which are known to be dumping sites and in

many cases witnesses of the illegal trash dumping would not take the time to testify in court. Symones told the NEWS there has already been a petition started in the township calling for him to be rehired. He said, though, he would not take the job back unless he gets a written contract from the township. Symones had been working for \$5.00 an hour with no benefits and without a contract he had no sense of job security.

Since he became police chief in 1980, Symones has raised money for a police car and radio, has brought in \$2,000 in fines for the township and has cracked down on teenage drinking parties in the township.

## Street dept. needs boss

By MIKE PETROVSKY

Street crews in Carbondale are performing their duties this week without any direct supervision. Director of Public Works, Walter Thomas, was laid off in early December of 1983 and has not been recalled since Mayor Charlotte Moro intends to eliminate his position.

Street Department Foreman Paul Mizok submitted his resignation to the town council in the near future.

Fred Mancuso before his term as mayor expired. Mizok accepted a job with the Carbondale Housing Authority.

According to Mayor Moro, Paul Danek, a street department employee, is taking call and dispatching men where needed. Mrs. Moro said that she will resolve the leadership problem in the near future.

## Dog owners: time to get new license

By MIKE PETROVSKY

Dog owners are licensing fee of \$5.00 for reminded that the new 1984 dog license are now on for payment. The sale at the County Animal's Senior citizens are entitled to a reduced fee of \$2.75 and \$1.75 respectively. Owners of six (6) months of age must be licensed on or before January 1 of each year.

Those dog owners who fail to obtain a current license are subject to fines up to \$50.00 plus court costs for first offenders.

The law provides for of Tunklinsack all dog owners will be given sufficient time to obtain a 1984 county treasurer with license before checks are conducted in each county closed, stamped, self-addressed envelope for regional wardens from the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement.

Licenses may also be subject to being obtained by blank application form Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. It is located at Lincoln Ave., many and John St. and Jerry Grillo reports that the departments, pet stores, office has license applications there.

than be forwarded to the county treasurer with remittance and an enclosed envelope for regional wardens from the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement.

The Carbondale office of the Courthouse (Annex) is also accepting applications. The application form is located at Lincoln Ave., many and John St. and Jerry Grillo reports that the departments, pet stores, office has license applications there.

## Bursting Expressions new, unique business

By MIKE PETROVSKY

Have a spat with your spouse? Want to impress your girlfriend or boyfriend? Wondering what to get that special someone? Why not send a bouquet -- of balloons?

"Bursting Expressions," a new business venture of Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Cassaro Jr., 1015 Terrace St., can fill the bill. They'll send a balloon with a special message printed on it to anyone, anywhere. They'll even hand deliver the balloon or a bouquet of balloons to places of

employment, offices, hospitals and schools located in the Carbondale Area.

Rose Ann Cassaro told the NEWS that she and her family have been in the balloon business for the past five months and it really seems to be catching on. Mrs. Cassaro said she had seen similar businesses in other parts of the country and thought that the idea would fly, or we should say, "float" in Carbondale. The business serves as a creative outlet from her full time job at St. Joseph's Hospital where she is a maternity floor nurse.

"I wanted to do something that was part-time and fun."

At first the business was limited to the local area because the deliveries were made by the Cassaros or one of their part time employees. However, with the "Balloon in the Box" they can send an inflated silver balloon with a message just about anywhere through the mail. Parents and friends of college students have been the biggest customers so far for the Balloon in a Box concept. The students then use the balloons to decorate their apartments or dormitory rooms.

Though mailing balloons has met with success, Bursting Expressions still prides itself in hand delivering the balloons -- a more personal approach. Still more unique is the fact that the balloons can be delivered by costumed characters ranging from Miss Piggy, Kermit the Frog and Sylvester the Cat for children's birthday parties, to belly dancers and Playboy Bunnies for balloons sent to bachelor parties.

Some of the more unusual places they've made deliveries to include bars, parking lots, airports and even doughnut shops. Bursting Expressions can also handle decorations for weddings, private parties and charitable events.

The Cassaros buy their balloons from distributors in Pennsylvania, Georgia and California. Business was slow during the Christmas season, but Mrs. Cassaro is looking forward to Valentine's Day and the spring and summer months. Both she and her husband are convinced the balloon business will steadily improve in the times of "high inflation" because a bouquet of balloons is unique cheaper than a bouquet of flowers.

"The balloon business creates a sort of mood," Mrs. Cassaro said

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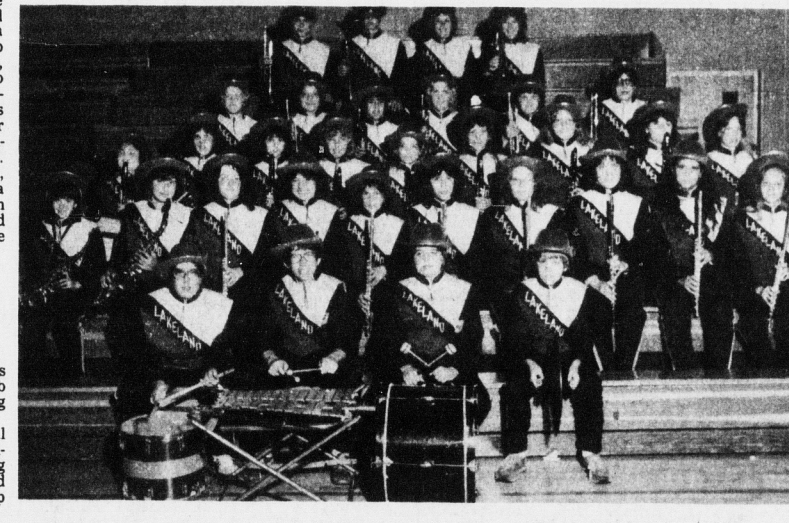
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MEMBERS OF THE LAKELAND HIGH SCHOOL BAND from the 1982-83 school year. The band has won various awards in field and parade competitions since 1980.

## Award winning Lakeland High School Band attributes its success to desire, practice

By MIKE PETROVSKY

In past years the Lakeland High School Band has won various awards as a result of their participation in both parade and field competitions but 1983-84 is a rebuilding year for the marching Chiefs.

As a band director you see strong years and you see weak years," band director Frank Santoro said. "Now we have lost some of our strength but the students are still working hard and in about a year we'll have another strong group performing."

Santoro, who plays the piano and all band instruments (brass, woodwinds and percussion) has seen hands come and go at Lakeland for almost a decade. Santoro resides in Carbondale and is a graduate of Ben Franklin High School. He received his undergraduate degree in music from Mansfield State College and his masters degree in music education from Penn State. He is also the band leader for the Allyn Sands Revue, a show band that plays in the Catskill and Pocomo resorts.

The Lakeland Band has between 110 and 120 members each year which includes 70 to 120 grade band members, colorguard, flag line, majorettes, and rifle twirlers.

In 1980 Lakeland's band placed third among other Northeast Pennsylvania high school bands in the Burger King "Best Band" competition held at Scranton's Memorial Stadium. The Chiefs placed second overall in 1981 at the "Tournament of Bands" which took place in Old Forge. And at the St. Patrick's Day Parade held in downtown Scranton the band took first place honors in 1981 and '82 for best marching band and best appearing band respectively. Lakeland is also an annual participant at the Pioneer Day parade in Carbondale.

Just what makes the Lakeland band program so successful? In the activity whereby they can interact and share a common purpose with other students. Participating in local parades provides the band members with a sense of competition and a desire to be the best. As further incentive band members receive high school credits for their participation.

"The students are good workers and they take pride in what they do."

A band the caliber of Lakeland's just doesn't happen overnight. It takes hours of practice, which at Lakeland, begins the last week of July with five-day-a-week sessions lasting until September. In the fall the band practices twice a week after school to polish up the routines they have been working on all summer for halftime and pre-game shows at

football games. During the school years the full band rehearses at a club period -- a special period during a school day set aside for extracurricular activities once every two weeks. The musicians meet in small groups at regularly scheduled classes during the week, and at Saturday morning practice sessions offered to the band members, should they want to attend. Saturday practice sessions are held in the spring and fall -- a concept unique among high school instrumental music programs in this area.

The attendance at the Saturday practices this year is larger than I anticipated," Santoro said. A successful band like any other organization needs financial support and in this respect the school administration and the Lakeland school board are very cooperative. "The school board has never turned me down for supplies that the band needed," Santoro said. "You've got to have their help behind you."

Last year the band outfitted the band's 18 member flag line at a cost of over \$100 per uniform. Santoro stated the band had also committed itself to gradually replacing the band's uniforms. The uniforms were purchased in 1971 for about \$100 each, however, with inflation Santoro estimates the price of the same uniform to have climbed well over \$300. Other supplies funded by the band include saxophones, drums and bells -- instruments that are too expensive for students to purchase on their own.

Lakeland also has an active Band Parents Organization which sponsors the spring dinner and the band years the full band rehearses at a club period -- a special period during a school day set aside for extracurricular activities once every two weeks. The musicians meet in small groups at regularly scheduled classes during the week, and at Saturday morning practice sessions offered to the band members, should they want to attend. Saturday practice sessions are held in the spring and fall -- a concept unique among high school instrumental music programs in this area.

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